Vol. VII. Numb. 59

THE OBSERVATOR.

Letters to the Obſervator, *fixing the Charge of Popery upon the* Rehearſal; *and proving, that his Laws againſt Coercion, are repeal'd. The* Rehearſal *chaſtis'd by the* Obſervator's Joan *and* Tom: *And his Falſhood in charging the Power of Coercion upon the Pope's Supremacy, diſcover'd and retorted.*

From **Saturday**, September 4. to **Wednesday**, September 8. 1708.

Country-m. YOU know, Maſter, that by Agreement, I am now to combat the *Rehearſal*, and his Man *Ralph*.

Obſ. I own it, *Roger*; go on; I wiſh you good Succeſs.

Country-m. I thank you, Maſter; but good Manners oblige me to give place to my Betters; therefore I yield the *Pas* to two honeſt Gentlemen, who have ſent you Letters relating to the Controverſy betwixt you and the *Rehearſal*. The firſt is upon the Subject of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper's being offer'd by the Prieſt as a Sacrifice; and is as follows:

Mr. *Obſervator*,

'YOU have lately given due Correction to the *Rehearſal* about his Notion, that the Prieſt doth offer to God in Sacrifice, the Body and Blood of Jeſus Chriſt, under the Sacramental Symbols.

'You have already well obſerv'd, that his Doctrine is call'd by the Church of *England*, *Article* 31. a blaſphemous, falſe, and dangerous Deceit. And I challenge Mr. *Rehearſal*, who ſends you to your Catechiſm, to prove his Doctrine by any Catechiſm of the Church of *England*; and to ſhew me in what Part of the Service of the Church, the Prieſt doth offer that Sacrifice.

'Now, what I deſire you to take Notice of, is, that Mr. *Rehearſal* had in his preceding Volume, advanc'd the ſame Opinion; and as he knew well enough, that it would be look'd upon as Popery, and Popery condemn'd by the Church of *England*, he had then the Confidence to make Uſe of a *pious Fraud*, and to ſay, that according to the Papiſts, 'twas a *bloody* Sacrifice; and according to the Proteſtants, an *unbloody* Sacrifice; which is falſe in Reſpect of both, the Proteſtants denying the Sacrament to be a Sacrifice either bloody or unbloody; and the Papiſts making it an unbloody Sacrifice; as may be ſeen at large in the Catechiſm of the Council of *Trent*, in *Bellarmin*, and in the Biſhop of *Meaux*.

'Pray how do you call this? Ignorance, Folly, or a worſe Name?

'Mr. *Rehearſal*, about the Time the Pretender deſign'd for *Scotland*, was pleas'd to call the Papiſts *earneſt Chriſtians*; which ſhews the Reſpect he hath for them. Now, theſe *earneſt Chriſtians* look upon that *unbloody* Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Chriſt in the Sacrament, as the chief Part of their Worſhip; of which, if Mr. *Rehearſal* can perſwade us, under Colour of Proteſtantiſm, he hath gain'd his Point, and can make People believe any Abſurdity. *For a Cardinal*, ſaith Mr. *Rehearſal* in one of his Papers, (and for ought I know he ſpeaks as a Party concern'd) *gave this Advice to a Man who came into* England *to preach Popery, that he ſhould begin by the moſt difficult Points, as Tranſubſtantiation, the Maſs*, &c. *For*, ſaith this civil Author, *an* Engliſh-*man believes nothing under a Contradiction.* I am,

Yours, *R. C.*

Obſ. I heartily thank the worthy Author, *Roger*, whoever he be; he has ſaid very much to the Purpoſe; which I hope will ſatisfy all Proteſtants of Senſe, of the *Rehearſer*'s Ignorance, and miſchievous Deſign on this Head; of which, I hope we ſhall have an Opportunity ere long, to give the Publick a farther Account; in which this Gentleman's Aſſiſtance may be very uſeful againſt the common Enemy of our Holy Religion, if he think fit to impart his Thoughts to us.

Country-m. The other is upon the Subject of repealing the *Rehearſer*'s Act againſt coercive Power over Tyrants, Maſter; and is thus:

SIR,

'BY the Act of 13 and 14 *Car.* 2. cap. 4. parag. 9. the ſeveral Perſons therein ſpecify'd, are 'oblig'd to ſign a Declaration in theſe Words: I '*A. B.* do declare, that it is not lawful, upon any 'Pretence whatſoever, to take Arms againſt the 'King; and that I do abhor that traiterous Poſition of taking up Arms, by his Authority, againſt 'his Perſon, or thoſe that are commiſſion'd by 'him.

'Now, by the Act 1 *William* and *Mary*, ſeſ. 1. 'cap. 8. parag. 11. this Part of the aforeſaid Act 'enjoining the Subſcription of the above-menti'on'd Declaration, is expreſsly repeal'd. And 'whether all other Acts depending upon the ſame 'Reaſon, and built upon the ſame Principles, are 'not hereby virtually repeal'd, tho' not particular'ly repeated, is left to your Conſideration, by,

Sir, Your moſt humble Servant.

Obſ. This Gentleman writes like a worthy Patriot, and a Man of true Senſe, *Roger*. I hope he will oblige us with his own Conſiderations on the Subject; which, by this ſhort Hint, I am ſatisfy'd muſt be very valuable: And I would beg the ſame Favour of that learned Gentleman, who was ſo kind as to ſend us the Clauſe of the Act of 1 King *William* and Queen *Mary*, the other Day; which abſolves us from our Allegiance to any King or Queen, who turns Papiſt, or marries with one of that idolatrous Communion.

Country-m. Now, Maſter, I'll have one Blow at the *Rehearſer* and *Ralph*. In his Paper of Saturday laſt, he puts you upon ſhewing a Diſparity betwixt King *John*'s Surrender of his Crown to the Pope, and his agreeing to the coercive Power of his Barons. When my *Joan* read this t'other Day, ſhe fell a laughing, and ſaid. I needed not trouble my ſelf with my Oaken Towel; for ſhe could manage him with her Diſtaff: Nay, ſhe added, Maſter, that the *Rehearſal* ſhews himſelf ſo very weak of late, that her Boy *Tom* is able to give him Correction with a Proceſſioning-Rod.

Obſ. Joan is very pleaſant, *Roger*; but what did ſhe ſay to the Argument?

Country-m. Say, Maſter! ſhe ſaid, the Diſparity was evident; for King *John* gave away what was not in his Power to do, and the Pope receiv'd that which he had no Title to; and had he been any Thing but a Fool, might eaſily have known he could never be able to keep it. Whereas the *Engliſh* Barons were Lords of the Soil, and demanded no more of King *John*, than was their Right by the Laws of St. *Edward*, ratify'd by William the Con-

Conqueror, and made by our *Saxon* Anceſtors, as an Original Contract betwixt them and their Kings; which the *Rehearſer* is ſo diſhoneſt as to take no Notice of in his Argument, tho' it has been ſo fully prov'd againſt him. Then, Maſter, for my Boy *Tom*, when he found the *Rehearſer* ſaid, that your alledging the Laws againſt Coercion to be antiquated, was Nonſenſe, he look'd into his Dictionary, and coming to me with a Smile, ſays, Father, I perceive the *Rehearſer* muſt be ſent to learn his Grammar; for *antiquated*, among other Things, ſignifies not only Laws that come to be in Diſuſe by Reaſon of their Antiquity, but ſuch as, tho' lately made, are not thought fit by the Legiſlature to be obſerv'd. The young Rogue added, that in his *Roman* Antiquities, he finds, that a Law is ſaid to be *derogated from*, when any Part of it is repeal'd, or has a Law made contrary to it; which is juſt the preſent Caſe: For our Declaration of Rights, the Repeal of the Clauſe againſt Coercion quoted above, and the Law abſolving us from our Allegiance, if the King or Queen turn Papiſt, or marry one of thoſe Idolaters, have ſufficiently derogated from the *Rehearſer*'s Laws againſt Coercion. Now, Maſter, let the World judge what a Champion our High-Church-men have got, when a Woman and a Boy are able to give him Correction; and when every Girl that can tell her Name, and what her God-fathers and God-mothers have done for her, is able to chaſtiſe him, for corrupting our Religion, by making the Lord's Supper a Sacrifice, and a Popiſh Wafer our Saviour's Body and Blood.

Obſ. *Joan* and *Tom* have ſo belabour'd the *Rehearſer* and *Ralph* with a Diſtaff and Rod, that you may lay aſide your Oaken Towel, *Roger*. In the mean Time, I muſt alſo give 'em a little Chaſtiſement, for telling ſo notorious a Falſhood, as that *Lambard*'s *Saxon* Law for Coercion, is founded on the Pope's univerſal Supremacy; for that Law only quotes the Pope's Determination in the like Caſe, but derives no Authority from him; which ſhews either the *Rehearſal*'s groſs Ignorance or Falſehood: For he might have found in his own Dr. *Brady*'s Hiſtory, that even in the Caſe of King *John*, our Parliament deſpis'd the Pope's Excommunication, ridicul'd King *John*'s Surrender of the Crown to be the Patrimony of St. *Peter*, and the Pope's accepting it as ſuch; which fairly gives the *Rehearſal* the Lie, when he ſays the Coercion was founded on the Pope's Supremacy: For it proves the quite contrary, *viz.* That it was the Foundation of King *John*'s Tyranny, as it was of his late Maſter's King *James* the II. ſo that the Reflexion of our joining with the Pope and the Devil, to depoſe the King, recoils upon himſelf and his Party, who join'd with the Pope, the *French* King, and the *Turk*, to depoſe King *William* and Queen *Mary*, and her preſent Majeſty, to ruin the Proteſtant Religion, and the common Liberties of *Europe*, and to ſupport Tyranny.

Country-m. I think the *Rehearſal* deſerves Chaſtiſement of another Sort for his Treaſon, Maſter, in aſſerting, that the Pope has as good a Title to *England*, as either Lords, Commons, or People have for Coercion over the King; ſince 'tis plain, that by our Laws we are entitl'd to ſuch a Coercion, if the King turn Papiſt or Tyrant. But we muſt have more of this in our next.

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